



To
The Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough
of Christchurch.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report of the
Christchurch Urban Sanitary District for the year 1925.

Population estimated by the Registrar-General for year
1925 6964 .

The number of births and deaths are those registered during the Calendar year, and are corrected for inward and outward transfers. The causes of death in the District relate to civilians only. The number of births belonging to the District was 118, legitimate 107, illegitimate 11. Males 66. Females 52, and, calculated on the population 6964, gives the Birth-rate of 16.9 per 1000 of the total population as against 16.3 during the year 1924 and against 18.3 for England and Wales during the year 1925.

The number of deaths belonging to the District was 62, Males 34. Females 28, and, calculated on the above population, gives the death-rate of 8.9 per 1000 of the total population as against 11.0 during the year 1924 and against 12.2 for England and Wales during the year 1925.

The natural increase of the population, i.e., the balance between natality and mortality was 56, as against 36 during the year 1924. All the deaths were certified. No death was attributed to "Diarrhoea &c." under two years, and is in great measure due to mothers having become more learned in the art of nurture.

Christchurch Urban Sanitary District.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1925.

Population estimated by the Registrar-General has been used for the purposes of this Table.

Birth-rate per 1,000	Total Population.	Population 6964.	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Civil Population			Rate per 1000 Births		Percentage of Total Deaths	
16.9			8.9	All Causes					
			0.00	Enteric Fever					
			0.00	Small-Pox					
			0.00	Measles					
			0.00	Scarlet Fever					
			0.28	Whooping Cough					
			0.00	Diphtheria					
			0.43	Influenza					
			1.00	Heart Disease					
			0.57	Violence					
			0.00	Diarrhoea & Enteritis under two years					
			25.4	Total Deaths under one year					
			93.5	Causes of Death Certified by Registered Medical Practitioners					
			6.5	Inquest Cases					
			0.00	Uncertified Causes of Death					

The low general death-rate, the low infant death-rate, and the absence of any death from diarrhoea and enteritis under two years of age for two years in succession are matters for congratulation.

One death occurred within the District as a result of child-birth, viz:- puerperal ~~sepsis~~. sepsis.

Infant death-rate, measured by the proportion of deaths under one year of age to registered births was 25.4, as against 26.7 in the preceding year and against 75 for England and Wales during 1925 per 1000. There were three deaths "under one year," and all were of legitimate infants. Two were attributed to whooping-cough and one to pneumonia.

Cancer accounted for 12 deaths (Males 7. Females 5) against 6 deaths during the preceding year.

Tuberculosis. I received 19 notifications as follows:- Form A. 8. Form D. 7. and Form C. 4. Fifteen were tuberculosis of Respiratory system and four other tuberculous diseases, and all occurred in separate houses. Two deaths were attributed to the respiratory system, and one to "other tuberculous diseases."

Preventive measures. Examination of sputum &c., at County Laboratory, Sanatorium treatment, attendance at the Dispensary, Breckenhurst, provision of shelters and disinfectant, supply of sputum flasks, disinfection of infected rooms and all articles exposed to infection after death or change of residence, visitation of infected houses, and appropriate instructions were given as to the preventive measures to be adopted.

Institutional treatment has its chief purpose in

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education, and should be limited to a brief period of tuition in the manner of life suitable to the tuberculous individual with one proviso:- that the individual having learned what manner of life he should lead, returns to conditions where he can carry it out. Tuberculosis is primarily a disease of environment, to arrest it there must be an improvement in the general hygienic conditions, and not least in the milk supply. The most reliable preventive measures in my opinion are good housing and good food well cooked.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases. Sixty-seven cases were notified in forty-seven houses.

Diphtheria. Sixteen cases were notified in fifteen houses, and fifteen cases were removed to *Hospital*.

On my advice the School Medical Officer swabbed 197 school children with the result that two carriers were discovered.

Influenza was very prevalent among school-children and necessitated the closure of one school.

Scarlet Fever. Four cases were notified in three houses and one was removed to Hospital.

Pneumonia. Eleven cases were notified in six houses. Of these cases six were notified at the Union Workhouse..

Erysipelas. Seven cases were notified in seven houses.

Chicken-pox. Twenty-four cases were notified in fourteen houses. Eleven cases occurred at the Cottage Homes.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. This case was notified at the Union Infirmary.

Puerperal Fever. Two cases occurred in two houses, one of which proved fatal.

Encephalitis Lethargica. One case was notified and removed to a nursing home and proved fatal.

Enteric Fever. One case was notified at a grocer's shop and was removed to Hospital. The girl, aged 12 years, left home on 29th December and returned home on 11th January, and was first medically attended on January 15th. She had not partaken of any uncooked vegetables, nor any kind of fish at home. The milk supply was not under suspicion and the confectionery was made at home. The water supply was derived from a shallow well. A sample of the water was submitted to a chemical and bacteriological examination at the County Laboratory and was pronounced to be fit for drinking purposes. An ex-soldier resided in the house but he had no history of having suffered from enteric fever.

The preventive measures in operation are:- Removal to Hospital, isolation at Home, quarantine and bacteriological examination of contacts, exclusion of children from school, detailed instructions were given to Head Teachers and Heads of infected households as to the measures to be taken to prevent spread of infection. I notified Head Teachers and the Sanitary Inspector of each infected household. The School Medical Officer issued to Head Teachers "Form H. 6a" to notify the Medical Officer of Health of infectious disease occurring among school children, on receipt of which I visited Schools and Homes of children and took appropriate action, disinfection of rooms and all articles exposed to infection by the Sanitary Inspector, supply of disinfectant and rectification of Sanitary defects. I received 26 notifications on "Form H. 6a."

The method of disinfection is:- all linen and other washable articles are saturated with a spray of (1-50)

Formalin and left for twelve hours, then rinsed in cold water, and finally washed in boiling water. The pillows, mattress and carpets (unless soiled by infective discharges, then burned) are well sprayed with the Formalin solution. After measures of disinfecting a room have been taken, the wall-paper (especially if torn, soiled, or loose) is stripped from walls and burned, the room has its ceiling and walls thoroughly washed or limewashed. The floor and woodwork are also washed with soap and water.

The Borough is relying upon other Sanitary Authorities for Isolation Hospital accommodation. This arrangement for obvious reasons may come to an end at any time. The Council should therefore proceed to provide the much-needed Isolation Hospital for the District especially under existing circumstances, i.e., overcrowding of dwellings with consequent spread of infection. The Council have now subsidized beds at the Alderney Hospital Poole and also means of transport.

Public Elementary Schools.

I inspected the Schools. The W.C's at two required to be cleansed and lime-washed. Garments of verminous children require to be separated from those of non-verminous children in the cloak-rooms. Children under five years of age should be excluded from school during the prevalence of infectious disease. Much may be done to prevent the spread of infectious disease by due attention to the sanitation and ventilation of school-rooms and cloak-rooms. Frequent and thorough washing of class-rooms and cloak-rooms is an efficient means of removing both dust and infection. Dry sweeping on the other hand tends to scatter dust. Medical

Inspection of school children is carried out by the County Medical Officer. The Health reformers tell us that the state of school-children's teeth is a national scandal, and they are calling for a good dental service, little headway will be made towards the banishment of dental disease unless the simple rules of prevention are inculcated. But are Teachers instructed to see that children come to school with clean teeth, and do they insist as far as they can on their instructions being obeyed?

Bakehouses. I inspected five bakehouses, two required to be cleansed and limewashed and the dung removed from the premises.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Milk Shops. I inspected three. The shops and milk vessels were clean. The receptacles containing milk in the shops were covered.

Milk Stores. I inspected three. The stores and vessels were clean. One contained extraneous things.

Cowsheds. I inspected nine and seven required to be cleansed and limewashed. Two milk vessels were unfit to contain milk owing to the rusty condition of interior. Overalls required to be provided for milkers. The yards adjoining sheds were in an unwholesome condition owing to the large accumulation of solid and semi-fluid dung.

Slaughter-houses. I inspected two slaughter-houses; the notices were affixed. One required to be cleansed and limewashed and the offal and extraneous things removed. No action was taken under Section 117 of the Public Health Act 1875. The Meat-Inspector is a qualified Veterinary

Surgeon, and he seized and condemned 190 lbs. of pork as unsound and unfit for human consumption owing to tuberculosis.

Factory and Workshops Act. I inspected a laundry and the address of an "outworker." Both were in a satisfactory sanitary condition. The Abstract of the Act was affixed and the Regulations were complied with.

Foods and Drugs Act. Fifteen samples were taken during the year and thirteen were genuine, viz:- bloater-paste, brandy, butter, flour (self-raising), lemon-curd, malt vinegar, new milk (5), spirit of nitre and whiskey. Two informal samples of whiskey were unsatisfactory. No case of food poisoning came to my knowledge during the year. These Acts are administered by the County Council.

Canned Foods. It is only by efficient sterilization that any food stuff can be rendered absolutely safe when preserved. The temperature required raises the point whether the containers themselves will stand the heat required, particularly if made of glass. The advantages of tins are that they are cheaper, they are more readily sterilized with less risk of damage or fracture, and it is easier to make them hermetically tight. Therefore the risk of harmful bacterial infection including botulism is decidedly less if tin containers are given the preference to glass. No application was made for licences permitting the use of the designations "Grade A. (Certified Milk)" and "Grade A. Milk." For consumption in industrial towns, there is much to be said for pasteurised milk, but pasteurisation cannot make dirty milk clean; to be wholesome and to have keeping properties the milk must itself be clean.

The Water Supply of the District is derived from Waterworks and the supply is constant.

I made sixty visits of inspection in various parts of the District. These are exclusive of re-visits to infected houses and schools &c., and the following are some of the sanitary defects discovered, and reported to the Sanitary Authority:- bedroom without through-ventilation, a nuisance caused by the continuous flow of offensive sewage through the drain at rear of cottages and discharged into a ditch close by; three cases of overcrowding owing to shortage of houses. There is a shortage of houses of modest size to meet the requirements of the weekly wage-earner. So long as any section of the population is badly housed, the Country cannot rest satisfied. The house is a matter that touches the comfort of every man and woman, and the welfare of the children. No action was taken during the year under "Rat and Mice Order." Whatever else is done at least all store-places of food should be rat-proofed. Notification of Birth Act, Maternity and Child Welfare Act, Midwives Act, Venereal Diseases Act 1917, are administered by the County Council.

Area of the District	(acres)	2800.
Population of the District. R.G. (1921)		6910.
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)		1579.
Number of inhabited houses	(1921)	1475.

A Summary of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspector is appended to the Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. de la Beche

17th July 1926.

Medical Officer of Health.

This Table is enclosed, by request of the Secretary of State, for the guidance and convenience of Medical Officers of Health in preparing that part of their Annual Report which relates to factories, workshops and workplaces. It is not intended to supersede the fuller statement which is desirable in the text of the Report, but to provide for uniformity in the presentation of certain particulars which lend themselves to statistical treatment.

Further copies can be supplied on application to the Chief Inspector of Factories, Home Office, London, S.W.1.

E.g. Metropolitan
Borough.
County Borough.
Borough.
Urban District.
Rural District.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925,
for the *Borough* of *Christchurch*.

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises. (1)	Inspections. (2)	Number of	
		Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	<i>2.</i>	—	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	<i>12.</i>	—	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	<i>5</i>	—	—
Total	<i>19</i>	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	—			
Want of ventilation	—			
Overcrowding	—			
Want of drainage of floors	—			
Other nuisances	—			
Sanitary accommodation {	insufficient	—	<i>being dealt with</i>	
	unsuitable or defective	1		
	not separate for sexes	—		
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	—			
Other offences	—			
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total	1	—	—	—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, SECTION 108.

NATURE OF WORK.	Instances.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Wearing Apparel—			
Making, &c.			
Cleaning and washing			
Household linen			
Lace, lace curtains and nets			
Curtains and furniture hangings... ..			
Furniture and upholstery			
Electro-plate... ..			
File making			
Brass and brass articles			
Fur pulling			
Cables and chains			
Anchors and Grapnels			
Cart gear			
Locks, latches and keys			
Umbrellas, &c.			
Artificial flowers			
Nets, other than wire nets			
Tents			
Sacks			
Racquet and tennis balls			
Paper, etc., boxes, paper bags			
Brush making			
Pea picking			
Feather sorting			
Carding, &c., of buttons, &c.			
Stuffed toys			
Basket making			
Chocolates and sweetmeats			
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, &c.			
Textile weaving			
TOTAL			

(Signature)

R. Lezlegate

Medical Officer of Health.

Date *23 July 1926.*

NOTE.—The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 (s. 132), requires the Medical Officer of Health in his Annual Report to the District Council to report specifically on the administration of that Act in workshops and workplaces, and to send a copy of his Annual Report, or so much of it as deals with this subject, to the Secretary of State (Home Office). If the Annual Report is presented otherwise than in print, it is unnecessary to include in the copy sent to the Home Office the portions which do not relate to factories, workshops, workplaces or homework.



Borough of Christchurch.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT OF SANITARY WORK completed in

Year 1925

	REMARKS.	TOTAL.
1. No. of Complaints received		3
2. Houses, Premises, etc., Inspected		61
3. Reinspection of Houses, Premises, etc.		31
4. Orders issued for Sanitary Amendments, etc.		21
5. Houses, Premises, etc., Cleansed, Repaired, etc.		11
6. Houses Disinfected after Infectious Illness		27
7. Houses, Premises, etc., Drained or Redrained		107
8. Pail Closets converted to W.C.'s.		30
9. Existing Pail Closets		10
10. Cesspools Closed		30
11. Wells Closed		1
12. New Houses Erected		122
13. New Houses in course of Erection		69
14. Galvanized Iron Ashbins provided		28
15. Inspections of Bakehouses		13
16. Inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds		25
17. Inspections of Slaughter-Houses	<i>Health Inspector Appointed 1925</i>	
18. Dust Removal communications recd. and attended to		7
19. Removals of Manure, etc.		1
20. Animals Removed—improperly kept		nil
21. Informal Notices served		15
22. Formal Notices served		3
23. Proceedings Taken		nil

GENERAL REMARKS :—

Henry J. Lawrence

Medical Officer of Health



Borough of Christchurch.

Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT for Year 1925.

1.	No. of Inspections made during Year	8
2.	Houses found Unfit for Habitation	4
3.	Representations made	-
4.	Closing Orders made	4
5.	Houses made Habitable without Closing Orders	-
6.	Houses made Habitable as result of Closing Orders	-
7.	Houses Demolished	2
8.	Houses Unfit but still Occupied	4
9.	Defects Reported	8
10.	Defects Remedied	-
11.	Notices Served	

GENERAL REMARKS:— *The Housing shortage still continues. It is impossible to deal with the cases of houses unfit until other accommodation in the form of small properties is available. It is hoped the Council's further Scheme of 26 Houses will assist in this direction.*

Henry J. Turner

Medical Officer of Health.

